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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/758,540	01/10/2001	Harish R. Devanagondi	CISCO-2039	9394
49715	7590	03/22/2005	EXAMINER	
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP			PATEL, HETUL B	
CISCO			ART UNIT	
P.O. BOX 640640			PAPER NUMBER	
SAN JOSE, CA 95164-0640			2186	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/758,540

Applicant(s)

DEVANAGONDI ET AL.

Examiner

Hetul Patel

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/12/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-37 are presented for examination.
2. The IDS filed on 03/12/2001 has been received and carefully considered.

### ***Specification***

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The abstract of this application exceeds 150 words limit in length.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities:

It should be stated as "... at least two processing stages, each ..." instead of "... at least two processing stages, each ..." as disclosed in this application.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Homewood et al. (USPN: 6,807,628) hereinafter Homewood.

As per claim 1, Homewood teaches an apparatus for exception handling in a data packet processor (the data processor, 100 in Figs. 1-2 and 4), comprising:

- a packet processing pipeline (the instruction execution pipeline, 400 in Fig. 4) including at least two processing stages (401-407 in Fig. 4) for processing a sequential (i.e. each instruction passes sequentially through each pipeline stage in order to complete its execution) plurality of data packets (instructions), each of the plurality of data packets having an exception map (other than instruction bits in 128-bit wide words stored in the instruction cache, 215 in Fig. 2) associated therewith (e.g. see the abstract, claim 1, Col. 2, lines 10-12 and Figs. 1-2 and 4);
- an exception detector (the interrupt and exception controller, 240 in Figs. 2 and 5) associated with each of the processing stages, the detector detecting whether any of a plurality of exception conditions

applies/associated to a data packet (e.g. see Col. 7, lines 38-44 and Figs. 2 and 5); and

- a bit setter responsive to the exception detector to set, modify, or reset at least one of a plurality of bits (a valid stop bit) of an exception map associated with the data packet (e.g. see Col. 12, line 45).

As per claim 2, Homewood teaches the claimed invention as described above and furthermore, Homewood teaches that each of the exception conditions further comprise a plurality of logical operations, i.e. the arithmetic or load/store operations (e.g. see Col. 8, lines 12-16).

As per claim 3, Homewood teaches the claimed invention as described above and furthermore, Homewood teaches that the apparatus further comprising an exception handler to process the exception map in response to the bits that are set in the exception map when all of the processing stages are complete, i.e. by generating exception in response to the exception condition upon completed execution of earlier ones of the executing instructions (e.g. see the abstract and the claim 1).

As per claim 4, Homewood teaches the claimed invention as described above and furthermore, Homewood teaches that the apparatus further comprising a memory (the instruction cache, 215 in Fig. 2) associated with the data packet to store the exception map (other than instruction bits in 128-bit wide words stored in the instruction cache, 215 in Fig. 2).

As per claims 8, 15, 22, 29 and 31, refer arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 1 above. These claims are rejected based on the same rationale as the rejection of claim 1.

As per claims 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 32 and 36, refer arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 2 above. These claims are rejected based on the same rationale as the rejection of claim 2.

As per claims 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 30, 33 and 35, refer arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 3 above. These claims are rejected based on the same rationale as the rejection of claim 3.

As per claims 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28, 34 and 37, refer arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 4 above. These claims are rejected based on the same rationale as the rejection of claim 4.

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hetul Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-4184. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Kim can be reached on 571-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2186

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*HBP*  
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**MATTHEW D. ANDERSON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**